

# Director's Report

## July 2003

Marc Gaspard, executive director

WASHINGTON  
**HIGHER  
EDUCATION**  
COORDINATING BOARD

## Challenges remain, but accomplishments bring satisfaction, optimism

By Marc Gaspard

Over the past eight years, I've had the great privilege of working with some of the most talented and dedicated people in all of state government. From a Board that has continually worked to ensure that higher education remains a priority in the state, to a staff whose behind-the-scenes efforts are helping countless students realize their dreams, I have been surrounded by some of the best.

While my decision to leave the HECB was very difficult, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the past few years. We have maintained a commitment to helping our state's most needy students go to college; created a program that helps families save for their children's and grandchildren's higher education; and opened the door

of opportunity for thousands who, at one time, could only imagine the inside of a college classroom.

However, there is much work to be done, and in many ways, higher education in our state is at a crossroads. A decline in state funding means that students and their families have to dig much deeper to afford a college education, and that our institutions are scrambling to accommodate more students with less support.

During the past legislative session, business leaders and editorial writers alike were calling for more funding for our colleges and universities. They were not alone. In fact, one of the most unique – and promising – aspects of higher education is that the commitment and resolve seem to cross party lines and demographics.

We have the great advantage of broad support, yet perhaps face the greater challenge that higher education is just one among many priorities during very tough economic times.

Still, I have great hope for the future. With the help of the national collaborative group and a very capable staff, the HECB has the tools and the opportunity to set the agenda, build an even stronger foundation, and ensure that higher education in Washington is a priority – today, and for many years to come.

As I prepare to start a new career in the private sector, please know that education issues will continue to be on my priority list, as they have been throughout my time in state government. I look forward to working with you in a new capacity.

## National collaborative data to guide strategic plan

The data analysis presented to the Board by the national collaborative group is an important first step in our work on the 2004 Strategic Master Plan. Now, we can begin using that data to guide our efforts to address three issues:

1. What are the state's most important higher education priorities?
2. What are our goals for higher education over the next few years – and beyond?
3. What are the state policies,

statutes and regulations that would need to be changed as a result?

In addition to the efforts of the National Collaborative on Higher Education Policy and the legislative work group, Gov. Locke is in the process of putting together an advisory group of business and education leaders and other stakeholders to work on higher education issues.

The governor's advisory committee will be briefed on the national collaborative data following the Board meeting.

### 2004 Strategic Master Plan Legislative Work Group

*tentative  
meeting schedule:*

**Wednesday,  
September 17**

**?**

**Wednesday,  
December 3**

## Staff news

**Linda LaMar**, senior associate director for education services, is retiring from the HECB after 26 years of service. Linda joined the agency in 1971 when it was known as the Council on Higher Education, and for all but six of the past 32 years, she has served as a key policy analyst, developing and implementing the state's financial aid programs. Also retiring from state government this summer is **Cindy McBeth**, who has been the State Work Study program manager since 1982. Cindy came to work for the program when she was still in high school in 1973, and joined the SWS program when it was created in 1974. During Cindy's tenure, the SWS program grew from an annual appropriation of \$500,000 to its current \$17 million, serving nearly 170,000 financially needy students. Finally, Program Associate **Chris Leeper** is leaving the HECB for Clover Park Technical College, where she has been named Budget Services Coordinator. Chris joined the HECB in 1998.

The GET team has added several new staff, including Customer Service Specialists **Dawn Eyechancer** and **Denise Sadler**. Dawn joins GET from the City of Olympia where she worked as a public service representative, and is a recent graduate of the Evergreen State College. Denise has more than 10 years experience with the Peninsula Community Federal Credit Union, where she was a teller, loan officer, and accounts control clerk. **Angela Brown** has joined GET as a financial assistant. Angela comes from the Thurston County Auditor's office, where she was a recording specialist, and holds a bachelor's degree from WSU.

**David Crutchfield** has been named part-time program associate for the State Approving Agency. David has worked as a program manager for WorkFirst and Community Outreach with North Seattle Community College, and was an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1993-97. David holds a master's degree from Seattle University and is working on his doctorate.

## GEAR UP visits Washington D.C.

While visiting the nation's capital earlier this month for a national conference on college readiness, GEAR UP programs had the chance to meet with members of Congress and their staff. The meetings gave program directors, including the Board's **John McLain** (who organized the event), the chance to brief lawmakers about the progress of the GEAR UP federal investment in our state. GEAR UP staff met with Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Rep. Doc Hastings. They also briefed staff for Reps. Brian Baird, Norm Dicks, Jim McDermott, and George Nethercutt. Washington is the home of the Board's state GEAR UP project and 10 local GEAR UP grants that partner schools with colleges, universities, and other organizations. This fall, GEAR UP programs will help more than 20,000 students prepare for college in 30 communities across the state.



*Seattle Public Schools students present an award to Sen. Patty Murray on behalf of GEAR UP programs in Washington state. The students are part of the Institute for Community Leadership, a school-based program that teaches kids and young adults how to deal with discrimination and violence in a non-violent, peaceful way.*

## Grant amounts set for Promise, Washington Scholars, WAVE

Based on appropriations in the operating budget signed into law by Gov. Locke, the HECB has announced student grant amounts for 2003-04. The Promise Scholarship will continue to be prorated, however, the Washington Scholars and WAVE awards are authorized at the full value of public tuition and service & activity fees. All three program award amounts will be reassessed in December.

**2003-04 Washington Promise Scholarship** annual award: \$930 (two semesters or three quarters at all schools).

**Washington Scholars and Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE)** — annual award for two semesters or three quarters:

UW	\$4,749
WSU	\$4,836
Independents	\$4,836
WWU	\$3,654
EWU	\$3,582
TESC	\$3,651
WWU	\$3,638
CTCs	\$2,142



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### GET program update:

The GET Committee will meet on Friday, August 1 to set the unit price for the 2003-04 enrollment period

*2003-04 enrollment year:  
September 15, 2003 — March 31, 2004*